

# Differentiating severe nerve agent from severe cyanide casualties

	Cyanide	Nerve agents
<b>Sudden collapse</b>	Possible	Possible
<b>Coma, if severe</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Seizures, if severe</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Pupils</b>	Normal or dilated	Constricted
<b>Bitter almond odor</b>	Yes (60-80% can detect)	No
<b>Increased secretions</b>	No	Oral, nasal, others
<b>Muscles</b>	Twitching	Fasciculations
<b>Acid-Base</b>	Anion gap acidosis	Respiratory alkalosis or respiratory acidosis
<b>Initial cardiovascular response</b>	Often hypotensive	Often hypertensive